

Class Concept

Work in this class involves providing counseling and therapeutic intervention while supervising juvenile offenders housed in a youth development center. These residential facilities are the most restrictive, intensive dispositional option available to North Carolina's juvenile courts. Employees are responsible for safeguarding juveniles from each other at all times and utilize a range of counseling techniques and skills in crisis interventions to effect individual treatment plans and facilitate group interaction processes. Employees are responsible for administering scoring, interpreting a variety of assessment tools to evaluate treatment progress, and reviewing treatment strategies to achieve rehabilitation goals. Employees function as a member of the therapeutic treatment team and participate in the development of individual treatment, educational, vocational and community reintegration programs. Work also involves: planning, orchestrating and supervising juvenile movement; monitoring juveniles to maintain safety; and, providing behavioral intervention and restraint as needed.

Recruitment Standards

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Working knowledge and understanding of minority group cultures, techniques of communicating with adolescents, and behavioral and developmental challenges and their treatment.
- Working knowledge of the organization and operation of treatment programs for juvenile offenders, the NC Juvenile Court System, basic assessment principles, and practical application of a variety of counseling techniques and approaches.
- Considerable knowledge of the methods and procedures of discipline and rehabilitation of juveniles confined in a state youth development center.
- Considerable knowledge of individual and group behavior, child and adolescent development, family systems, individual and group counseling techniques, crisis intervention techniques, the etiology of juvenile delinquency and empirically based methods of treatment.
- Ability to act quickly and efficiently in an emergency situation.
- Ability to assess clients to develop appropriate treatment plans, formulate clear goal-oriented treatment plans, and document progress of juveniles.
- Ability to work with juveniles in an empathetic and understanding manner and establish a collaborative relationship with family.
- Ability to communicate effectively with juveniles, families, and other treatment team members to explain the behavior and progress of the juvenile, and establish rapport with juveniles.
- Skilled in the application of crisis intervention techniques and emergency treatment procedure.

Minimum Education and Experience

Bachelor's degree in human services field or related human services field from an appropriately accredited institution and two years of experience working with at-risk youth; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Bachelor's degree in a related Human Services field, such as Criminal Justice, Sociology, Education, Religion or similar subjects shall include 25 semester hours of coursework related to the human services field.

Necessary Special Qualifications

Applicants for positions designated as Juvenile Justice Officers are subject to and must meet the hiring and training standards established by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, as defined in Title 12, Chapter 9 of the NC Administrative Code, by the statutory authority of GS 17C.

Note: This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA.